

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 L-03 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/062 W

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R 071110Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9676

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CD

SUBJECT: ESCAPE OF FRENCH HOSTAGE FROM BARDAI CAPTORS

1. FRENCH EMB AND LOCAL AFP CORRESPONDENT INFORMED EMBOFFS IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS JUNE 5 THAT ONE OF THREE FRENCH HOSTAGES CAPTURED BY INSURGENTS AT BARDAI IN APRIL 1974 ESCAPED LATE MAY TO LIBYA BY DRIVING OFF WITH CAPTORS' LAND ROVER IN UNGUARDED MOMENT. ONE OF SOURCES REPORTS THAT FORMER HOSTAGE, M. COMBES, NOT ONLY ESCUED WITH LAND ROVER (WHICH ACCORDING FIGARO CORRESPONDENT DESJARDINS LAST MONTH WAS ONLY OPERATING VEHICLE OF REBEL FORCES OF HISSEIN HABRE) BUT DROVE OFF WITH SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF RANSOM PAID LAST YEAR BY WEST GERMANS FOR RELEASE WEST GERMAN CITIZEN.

2. SOURCE OF REPORTS ABOVE IS APPARENTLY INTERNATIONAL NEWS BROADCAST AND AFP TICKER FROM PARIS. OUTLINE ALSO CARRIED JUNE 6 INFOTCHAD. FRENCH SOURCES INDICATED THAT OTHER TWO HOSTAGES, MAJOR GALLOPIN AND MME. CLAUSTRE, BOTH DEAD, BUT FRENCH EMBYMAINTIINS IT HAS NO CONFIRMED FNOWLEDGE OF DEATHS. IF ACCURATE, ESCAPE
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OF COMBES AND DEATHS OTHER TWO HOSTAGES HAVE RESOLVED

FOR MOMENT FRENCH HOSTAGE PROBLEM IN NORTHERN CHAD.
FRENCH EMB SOURCE ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE
CURRENTLY IN BET AREA NORTHERN CHAD THREE UNIDENTIFIED
FRENCH JOURNALISTS. UNSPOKEN CONCERN IS THAT THESE
MAY BE SEIZED BY HABRE REBEL FORCE AND HELD FOR RANSOM,
BEGINNING PROBLEM ANEW.LITTLE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: HOSTAGES, TERRORISTS, ALLEGATIONS, DEATHS
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Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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